

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 OMB-01 EB-08 TRSE-00
HA-05 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /098 W
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R 161715Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7073
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USNMR SHAPE BEL
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NICOSIA 126

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (SECTION INFO ADDED)

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC
USCINCEUR FOR POLAD
USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, CY, TU
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH ARCHBISHOP CHRYSOSTOMOS

SUMMARY. CYPRUS' NEW ARCHBISHOP STATES HIS INTENTION TO
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CONTINUE ETHNARCHIC INVOLVEMENT IN AFFAIRS OF STATE.
SHOWS HIMSELF A HARDLINER ON THE CYPRUS PROBLEM AND
NEGOTIATIONS WITH TURKS. MODERATELY TO STRONGLY CRITICAL
OF US ROLE. END SUMMARY.

1. I PAID MY FIRST CALL ON ARCHBISHOP CHRYSOSTOMOS
JAN 13. I HAD NOT INTENDED TO STAY LONG, BUT HE KEPT

THE CONVERSATION GOING FOR AN HOUR.

CHRYSTOMOS IS A BIG, BLUE-EYED, RED-CHEEKED, GRAY-BEARDED MAN WHO GIVES IMPRESSION OF BEING BOTH HYPERTHYROID AND GREATLY OVERWEIGHT. HIS ENGLISH WAS RUSTY AT FIRST BUT PICKED UP AS WE WENT ALONG. AS ALWAYS HERE, THE CONVERSATION DEALT PRIMARILY WITH CYPRUS PROBLEM AND PROSPECTS FOR SOLUTION.

3. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, CHRYSOSTOMOS SAID HE FELT HE HAD AN OBLIGATION TO REMAIN CLOSELY INVOLVED IN MATTERS OF NATIONAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONCERN. THE CHURCH COULD NOT LIMIT ITS ROLE TO SPIRITUAL ASPECT OF MAN'S LIFE. CONSEQUENTLY, THE ARCHBISHOP SAID HE WOULD BE ACTIVE IN THE GOC'S APPROACH TO NEGOTIATION AND WATCHFUL THAT ISSUES OF PRINCIPLE WERE NOT SACRIFICED FOR EXPEDIENCY.

4. IN THIS REGARD, CHRYSOSTOMOS SAID, HE HAD OPPOSED MAKARIOS ON PRESENTING A MAP. THE MAP CARRIED WITH IT IMPLIED ACCEPTANCE THAT SOME REFUGEES WOULD NEVER RETURN TO THEIR HOMES. THERE COULD NEVER BE A SOLUTION WHICH DID NOT PROJECT THE RIGHT OF ALL REFUGEES TO RETURN. THE STATE COULD NOT BE BIZONAL. PRINCIPLES OF PROPERTY RIGHTS, FREEDOM OF RESIDENCE AND MOVEMENT WERE SACROSANCT. GREEKS COULD NOT NEGOTIATE WITH A TURKISH ARMY ON CYPRUS SOIL.
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UN RESOLUTIONS HAD TO BE IMPLEMENTED. US AND USSR, PERHAPS IN CONCERT WITH OTHER SC PERMANENT MEMBERS, SHOULD JOINTLY ENFORCE THESE WITH TURKEY.

5. I DEMURRED, SAYING I DID NOT FEEL USSR WAS SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN A SOLUTION. WE HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED BY ECEVIT'S STATEMENTS AND HOPE THE NEW TURKISH GOVT WILL SEE THE WISDOM OF MOVING ON ITS OWN. WE REMAIN READY TO HELP. WE SUPPORT EARLIEST RESUMPTION OF INTER-COMMUNAL TALKS. WE THINK THIS PROCESS IS MORE LIKELY TO PRODUCE TANGIBLE ADVANCE THAN RHETORIC IN THE UN.

6. CHRYSOSTOMOS SAID HE DID NOT DOUBT US SINCERITY. HE HAD GREATLY ADMIRERED PRESIDENT KENNEDY. PRESIDENT CARTER WAS STILL SOMETHING OF AN ENIGMA TO HIM, BUT HE ADMIRERED THE PRESIDENT'S EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS. HUMAN RIGHTS WERE AT THE CORE OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. US, HE REGRETTED, HAD NOT DONE ALL IT COULD AT VARIOUS STAGES. IT COULD HAVE PREVENTED TURKISH INVASION, OR AT LEAST THE SECOND WAVE. HAD IT PUT MORE PRESSURE ON TURKEY SINCE 1974, TURKEY WOULD HAVE WITHDRAWN ITS TROOPS BY NOW. HE AGREED THAT THE RUSSIANS HAD ONLY

WORDS ON THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, BUT THEY HAD THE RIGHT WORDS. CYPRIOTS FELT IT WAS THE US WHICH HAD WEIGHT WITH TURKEY. THAT THIS WEIGHT WAS NOT FULLY USED GAVE RUSSIAN PROPAGANDA AND COMMUNIST PARTY RECRUITMENT AN ADVANTAGE THAT THE CHURCH WAS HARD PUT TO COUNTERACT.

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7. CHRYSOSTOMOS AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR US TO SEE EACH OTHER AT RELATIVELY FREQUENT INTERVALS AND SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO INSIST ON HIS FREEDOM TO USE ANYTHING THAT CAME UP ON OUR CONVERSATIONS IN WHATEVER WAY HE FELT APPROPRIATE. HE SAID, A TRIFLE MENACINGLY I THOUGHT,

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THAT WHILE I MIGHT WISH OUR EXCHANGES TO BE
CONFIDENTIAL AND MIGHT NOT MYSWWF BE INTERESTED IN
PUBLICITY, I WAS AN OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF MY
COUNTRY. COMMENT: I HAD TRIED TO MAKE THIS POINT TO
AVOID A REPETITION OF AN INCIDENT A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO
WHEN THE THEN DCM CALLED ON CHRYSOSTOMOS, THEN BISHOP
OF PAPHOS. FOLLOWING THAT MEETING, CHRYSOSTOMOS PUT AN
ARTICLE IN HIS TAME NEWSPAPER TO THE EFFECT THAT HE HAD
BEEN VISITED BY THE CHIEF OF CIA IN CYPRUS. IN THE
EVENT, CHRYSOSTOMOS GAVE NO PUBLICITY TO MY MEETING
WITH HIM. END COMMENT.

8. COMMENT: AS EVENTS--AND HIS SPEECHES--HAVE ALREADY
SHOWN, PRESIDENT KYPRNOANOU IS HARDLY BOLD OR INNOVATIVE.
TO THE EXTENT TO WHICH HE SHARES AUTHORITY WITH
CHRYSOSTOMOS, AND GIVEN CHRYSOSTOMOS' STRONGER
PERSONALITY THE EXTENT IS CONSIDERABLE, THE NEW
ARCHBISHOP SEEMS UNLIKELY, ON THE BASIS OF THIS
CONVERSATION, TO BE A FACTOR FOR POSITIVE AND FLEXIBLE GREEK
CYPRIOT ACTION/REACTION IN THE CYPRUS NEGOTIATION.
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